

# Checklist for a Personal Web Page

## How to Recognize a Personal Web Page

A **Personal Web Page** is one published by an individual who may or may not be affiliated with a larger institution. Although the URL address of the page may have a variety of endings (e.g., .com, .edu, etc.), a tilde (~) is frequently embedded somewhere in the URL.

## Questions to Ask about the Web Page

**Note:** The greater the number of questions listed below answered "yes," the more likely it is you can determine whether the source is of high information quality.

### Criterion #1: AUTHORITY

- Is it clear who is responsible for the contents of the page?
- Does the individual responsible for the page indicate his or her qualifications for writing on the topic?
- Is there a way of verifying the legitimacy of the individual responsible for the page? Because it is difficult to verify the legitimacy of an individual, personal home pages may be a useful source for personal opinion. However, use **extreme caution** when using them as a source for factual information.

### Criterion #2: ACCURACY

- Are the sources for factual information clearly listed so they can be verified in another source? If not, the page may still be useful to you as an example of the ideas of the individual; however, it is not useful as a source of factual information.
- Is the information free of spelling, grammatical, and typographical errors? These kinds of errors not only indicate a lack of quality control, but can actually produce inaccuracies in information.

### Criterion #3: OBJECTIVITY

- Are the person's biases clearly stated?

### Criterion #4: CURRENCY

- Are there dates on the page to indicate:
  - When the page was first created?
  - When the page was first placed on the Web?
  - When the page was last revised?
- Are there any other indications that the material is regularly updated?

### Criterion #5: COVERAGE

- Is there an indication that the page has been completed, and is not still under construction?